

Message Text

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SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S INQUIRY CONCERNING
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS STUDY

1. FOR YOUR USE IN RESPONDING TO FONMIN'S RELATED INQUIRY
TO YOU, FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF CONGRESSIONAL PRESS RELEASE
DATED AUGUST 21:

QUOTE: HAMILTON RELEASES STUDY ON USE OF MILITARY FORCE TO
SECURE OIL SUPPLIES. LEE H. HAMILTON (D-IND.) TODAY
RELEASED A LIBRARY OF CONGRESS STUDY WHICH CONCLUDES THAT
MILITARY OPERATIONS DESIGNED TO SECURE ACCESS TO OIL IN THE
EVENT OF AN AIR-TIGHT OIL EMBARGO WOULD COMBINE HIGH COSTS
AND HIGH RISKS, WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO SUCCEED AND WOULD,
IN THE EVENT OF FAILURE, CAUSE THIS COUNTRY GRAVE CONSEQUENCES.

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HAMILTON, CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON

INVESTIGATIONS OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE, SAID THAT HE HAD ASKED THE CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS TO LOOK INTO THIS ISSUE BECAUSE HE WAS DISTURBED BY SEVERAL ARTICLES AND STATEMENTS, SOME BY HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, WHICH SPECULATED ON SUCH MILITARY OPERATIONS IN THE

EVENT OF A CRIPPLING OIL EMBARGO. THE STUDY WAS PREPARED BY JOHN COLLINS AND CLYDE MARK OF THE CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE.

HAMILTON NOTED THAT THE ANALYSIS SHOWED HOW DISASTROUS SUCH A VENTURE COULD BE FOR UNITED STATES INTERESTS ABROAD.

HAMILTON ADDED QUOTE THE FOLLY OF SUCH MILITARY OPERATIONS IS CLEARLY EVIDENT AND I HOPE THAT THIS ANALYSIS MIGHT HELP TO LAY TO REST, FOR THE TIME BEING, SPECULATION ABOUT THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE AND DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE SCENARIOS WHICH TEND TO GIVE SUCH VENTURES AN AIR OF REALITY AND CREDIBILITY THAT DOES NOT NECESSARILY JIBE WITH ALL THE FACTS. UNQUOTE.

HAMILTON SAID QUOTE I AM CONVINCED THAT THE ONLY VIABLE MEANS FOR MAINTAINING SECURE ACCESS TO OIL ARE THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF MORE DOMESTIC ENERGY SOURCES AND RESOURCES AND THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MUTUALITY OF INTERESTS WITH OIL EXPORTING STATES TO THE DEGREE TO WHICH WE NEED FOREIGN SUPPLIES TO FULFILL DOMESTIC NEEDS AND THOSE OF OUR ALLIES. UNQUOTE.

HAMILTON CONCLUDED QUOTE NO USEFUL PURPOSE HAS BEEN SERVED BY PUBLIC SPECULATION ABOUT MILITARY OPERATIONS TO SECURE OIL SUPPLIES IN THE EVENT OF A GLOBAL OIL EMBARGO. THE VERY RISKY NATURE OF SUCH OPERATIONS MAKES IT EVEN MORE ESSENTIAL TO STOP SUCH IDLE THOUGHTS. IN AN INCREASINGLY INTERDEPENDENT WORLD, SUCH SABRE RATTLING ONLY HEIGHTENS FEARS, INCREASES DISTRUST AND COMPROMISES SINCERE EFFORTS TO CREATE THE MUTUALITY OF INTERESTS WE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEED WITH OIL SUPPLIERS AND TO CONVINCE OIL PRODUCERS OF THE WORLD'S NEED FOR ASSURED ACCESS TO OIL AT REASONABLE PRICES. UNQUOTE.

COPIES OF THE STUDY ENTITLED QUOTE OIL FIELDS AS MILITARY OBJECTIVES: A FEASIBILITY STUDY UNQUOTE ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, 2170 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515. UNQUOTE. KISSINGER UNQTE KISSINGER

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